

Date: December 18, 2013

W.I.: 1150

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4127

This resolution congratulates California Highway Patrol Golden Gate Division Chief Teresa Becher upon her retirement from the force after nearly 25 years of service, including eight years as California's first female division commander.

Date: December 18, 2013

W.I.: 1150

Re: Resolution of Appreciation for California Highway Patrol Golden Gate Division
Chief Teresa Becher Upon Her Retirement

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 4127

WHEREAS, Teresa Becher is retiring from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) after serving eight years as chief of the organization's Golden Gate Division and a total of nearly 25 years in various capacities at the CHP; and

WHEREAS, Teresa's departure from the CHP is also a loss for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which will miss her partnership on two crucial interagency programs that help keep Bay Area freeways free-flowing: the Freeway Service Patrol's fleet of free tow trucks and the cutting-edge 511 Traveler Information System; and

WHEREAS, Teresa broke through many glass ceilings at the CHP and paved the way for other women officers, serving as the first and only female field division commander and prior to that, as only the second woman in the Department's history to reach the rank of deputy chief; and

WHEREAS, Teresa joined the CHP academy in 1989 as a second career, spending her first four years on the force as a state traffic officer on road patrol, and then rising steadily through the ranks to become a sergeant, then lieutenant and then director of the California Office of Traffic Safety, where she was responsible for the administration of over \$70 million annually in traffic safety grants; and

WHEREAS, Teresa was promoted and transferred to the CHP's Protective Services Division, where as an assistant chief she oversaw the protection of the governor, constitutional officers and Appellate and Supreme Court justices, as well as the CHP's SWAT and bomb-detection teams; and

WHEREAS, in November 2005 Teresa was promoted to the rank of chief and assigned to the CHP's Golden Gate Division, with responsibility for overseeing twelve CHP Area offices across nine Bay Area counties, three Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facilities, a Special Services Command and the Golden Gate Communications Center — and over 1,400 personnel, both uniformed and non-uniformed; and

WHEREAS, as the CHP's Golden Gate Division Chief, Teresa ran a tight machine that played a crucial role in the 2007 MacArthur Maze meltdown, deploying officers to keep traffic moving while this critical artery was under repair; and

WHEREAS, as the CHP's Golden Gate Division Chief, Teresa also oversaw several major multiday closures of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to facilitate construction of the bridge's new East Span, directing a crack team of CHP officers who efficiently and painlessly halted all traffic across this major artery, and then incrementally and artfully reopened the approaches, often with little advance notice as to when construction activity would be completed; and

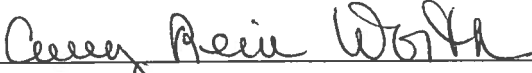
WHEREAS, Teresa ran her division with heart, as exemplified by an incident along Interstate 80 in February 2008 when she pulled her patrol car over to rescue a stranded cat before the feline could jump into traffic, thereby making headlines in the local media; and as exemplified by her determination to overcome logistical challenges and allow a parade of historic and other cars to cross the new Bay Bridge East Span as part of the opening day festivities in September 2013; and

WHEREAS, Teresa shares an uncanny connection with another legendary Bay Area transportation figure, the Bay Bridge troll — having begun her career dedicated to public safety in 1989, the same year the original troll was placed on the span to guard the safety of travelers in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake; and

WHEREAS, it is perhaps no accident that Teresa is retiring in the same year that the Bay Bridge troll went into retirement, and fitting that she deployed CHP officers to ensure the safety of the troll during his removal from the old bridge prior to demolition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the staff and commissioners of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission congratulate Teresa on her retirement, thank her for her role in getting Bay Area travelers where they need to go efficiently and safely, and welcome her to civilian life, where we know she will continue to make her mark.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Amy Rein Worth, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by
the Metropolitan Transportation Commission
at a regular meeting of the Commission held
in Oakland, California on December 18, 2013